

LITERARY NOTES.

"Tarantella," a novel relating partly to the Italian subversion concerning the life of the tarantula, will shortly be published in London. Its author is Miss Matilda Blund, who prepared the volume on George Eliot for the Famous Women series.

A correspondent of *The Atheneum* makes a wise suggestion to the publishers of books of reference. He proposes that for the convenience of the purchasers and users of their publications they should give with all books which contain lists of abbreviations, lists of books referred to by initial or other symbol, and generally any pages which have to be constantly or frequently turned to, or two or three copies of such lists or pages on separate leaves, to be held in hand or laid before the volume when in use. In the new editions of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, for example, the illustrations are indulged in at a set of cost of some complexity, and there is inconvenience in having to turn back to the explanatory page at the beginning of the volume each time it is necessary to consult the key.

The Comte de Paris writes to his American publishers, Messrs. Porter & Co.: "The numerous political duties which have devolved upon me leave me but very little time. I am devoting every hour I can spare to the prosecution of my great work on the American War. The correction of the proof-sheets of volume seven is progressing favorably, but this volume will not be published without the following one, which will be less than a third is yet written. For the history of my grandfather I am compelled to write, it would be a task much above my power to undertake."

The tenacity of the time toward realistic work is discussed in a review of two American novels which Mr. Elmer Gossage has contributed to the August number of *The Century*.

J. R. Osgood & Co. have just brought out a new revised edition of their excellent "Martinet Provinces" Guide.

The tourist who yearns toward Nova Scotia can have no more useful companion in that region.

A communistic society on the shore of an inferior lake—Broton, probably—is the scene of the new story in the Hells' American Novel series. The character drawn in "Among the Chosen" is reported to be particularly strong. One personage of the book is a certain English writer and traveller whose passion for communistic experiments is well-known to his friends.

Mr. F. Yano, the editor of the leading organ of the Liberal party in Japan, is spending several months in Europe, familiarizing himself with the manners and methods of the people. He will publish a book containing his impressions when he returns to his own country. Jap now has about two thousand periodical publications. The newspapers are modelled upon European dailies. Mr. Yano's paper is four-paged and costs four cents.

Mr. Gosse is editing for the Parchment Library—an unusual and expensive shape unless each purchaser intends to bind his books—a volume of Sir Joshua Reynolds' "Discourses." A volume of "Irish Lyrics" is being prepared for the same series by Mr. Justin McCarthy. Mr. T. Hall Caine is editing some selections from Coleridge's prose writings.

Guerilla warfare in the Southwest, with romantic accompaniments is the theme of a novel, "The Man from Texas," which T. B. Peterson & Bros. are about to publish.

Charles Reade ordered that all his commonplace books and memoranda shall be kept open for inspection for two years after his death. This may reasonably be done as an incentive to literary industry and toward carefully realistic methods.

A firm of publishers in Richmond are bringing out the life of Rev. John Jasper, with his famous sermon on the rotation of the sun.

Mr. Farnie, the author of "Called Back," is said to be writing serials both for *Harper* and for *Munition*.

"On a Country Road" is the title of a *ballade* contributed by Mr. Swinburne to the forthcoming number of *The Nineteenth Century*.

M. Emile de Lavelles has published a second series of letters from Italy, in which he declares that instead of finding the Italians a "nation of lassos" he found them hard-working and industrious, although terribly ground down by taxation, and in some purely agricultural districts miserably poor. M. de Lavelles regards with much misgiving the charters which Italy is making to be considered one of the great Powers. She spends a million pounds upon her warships, the Levante, while the Italians are dying of hunger and languishing under the weight of taxation. From the point of view of nourishing trade, M. de Lavelles fears the result of the *grande politique* upon the social and material condition of the country, which cannot afford so expensive a luxury. The fact is that the tax system necessitates the misery of the poorest classes in Italy, and particularly of those who cultivate the soil. Taxation has increased until it has become literally unbearable, and the result is that the people are compelled to pay exorbitant rents on a terrible contributory cause of the poverty in the rural districts.

Some of the copies of the fac-similes of the first edition of "The Vicar of Wakefield," which Mr. Eliot Stock is bringing out, will be bound in wood taken from the panels of the decoration of Italy's chapels—and for catalogues please address Mrs. F. T. WALSH, Principal.

DREW LADIES' SEMINARY, Carmel, N.Y., opened Sept. 10, 1881. Address, J. H. SAYLER, Acting Principal.

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